



# PRESS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Released: March 15, 2006

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### **Idaho Potato Stocks Down 14 Percent from Last Year**

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers, and processors in Idaho on March 1 totaled 55.0 million cwt, 9.00 million cwt less than on hand March 1, 2005. Disappearance, at 62.0 million cwt, is down from last year's 68.0 million cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest counties totaled 3.00 million cwt, down from last year's revised 3.40 million cwt. The Other counties' stocks, at 52.0 million cwt, were 8.60 million cwt less than the amount stored on March 1, 2005. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used 7.23 million cwt of 2005 crop raw potatoes during February, down 7 percent from last year. For the 2005 crop, processors have used a total of 42.8 million cwt to March 1, down 4 percent from last year. Idaho potatoes accounted for 37.5 million cwt of the total processed. The remaining 5.32 million cwt were produced in other states.

Nationally, the 13 major potato States held 154 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2006, down 8 percent from last year and 7 percent below March 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 41 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from last year. Disappearance of 219 million cwt of potatoes is down 6 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 20.1 million cwt so far this season, is down 18 percent from last year for comparable States. Processors in the 9 major States have used 115 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 3 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 23.2 million cwt of the total processing, down 11 percent from both last year and the same date in 2004.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507.

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